

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • December 2008

Filkins Says the Current Calm in Iraq Is Fragile

EVENT RECAP: NOVEMBER 6

by Charles Hack

For the OPC's second sold-out event in a row, *The New York Times'* award winning war correspondent Dexter Filkins discussed his new book, *The Forever War* [Alfred A. Knopf, 2008]; with 2007 Pulitzer Prize and OPC Award winner Lawrence Wright in an armchair chat at the OPC's Book Night at Club Quarters. The event was co-sponsored by The World Policy Institute.

"This has got to be one of the most enduring pieces of journalism from this era," Wright said of the book that has received accolades as "classic" and "timeless," "compassionate and "brutally honest," from fellow war correspondents. "I am sure everyone who has read it feels the same way."

The prolific writer should know. Wright, a *New Yorker* staff writer and 1992 OPC Ed Cunningham Award winner, discussed his own book, *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* [Alfred A. Knopf, 2006] – which scooped the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-fiction – at an OPC Book Night two years ago.

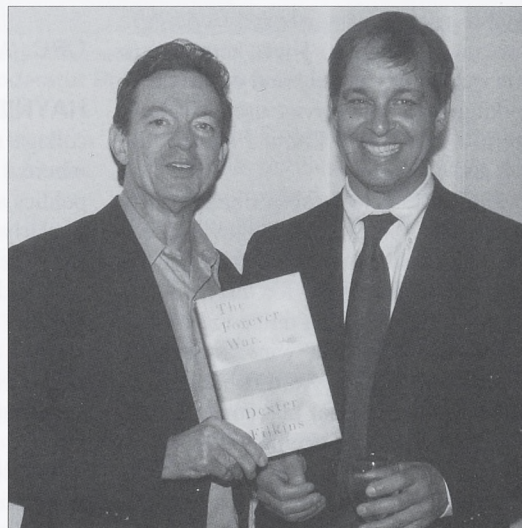
The Forever War is a collection of personal accounts collected over almost a decade of reporting in Iraq and Afghanistan for *The Times*, by a reporter who previously won the OPC 2004 Hal Boyle newspaper Award for his daily reports on fighting in Fallujah and the

2005 Ed Cunningham magazine Award for "The Fall of the Warrior King" published in *The New York Times Magazine*.

Filkins survived harsh and perilous conditions that have claimed the lives of two *New York Times* reporters and approximately 186 correspondents and media support workers – according to the Committee to Protect Journalists – to bring first-hand accounts of a public execution in Kabul, the sacrifices U.S. Marines have made during Operation Iraqi Freedom and graphic description of the aftermath of suicide bombings.

Filkins accompanied a unit that lost one quarter of its Marines during an eight-day sweep from north to south through Fallujah, in 2004, to try to clear the rebellious city of insurgents.

One loss was deeply personal: Marine Corps Lance Cpl. William L. Miller, 22, of Pearland, Texas in Fallujah, died on November 14 after being shot in the face as he led journalists and soldiers up a minaret of a mosque a



Charles Hack

Dexter Filkins (right) and Lawrence Wright.

couple of blocks from the south side of the city – after a request to photograph a dead insurgent they believed was alone in the tower.

During street-to-street fighting, Filkins would write his dispatches at night inside his zipped sleeping bag on the rooftops of unoccupied homes, with sweat dripping onto the keyboard of his laptop. No light

(Continued on Page 11)

Fainaru Relays the Hidden Costs of War

EVENT RECAP: DECEMBER 1

by Aimee Rinehart

At the December 1st book night, Steve Fainaru, the 2007 OPC Hal Boyle Award and Pulitzer Prize author, jumped right into telling how his new book on mercenaries in Iraq came to be. His book, *Big Boy Rules: America's Mercenaries Fighting in Iraq*, represents his experiences reporting the war in Iraq beginning from the fall of 2004 until the end of 2007.

"The book follows the trajectory of my reporting," Fainaru said.

He began as an embedded reporter for the first year, and then at the end of 2005, he wanted to continue reporting but knew "Iraq fatigue" was happening among U.S. readers. An editor at *The Washington Post* suggested he cover the private war in Iraq.

"It was a vast subject with 190,000 people, from cooks to sanitation to private security/mercenaries," Fainaru

(Continued on Page 4)

Inside...

Q&A With Devon Haynie	2
Event Recap: Breakfast Panel	3
People	5-9
People: Remembered	10-11
New Books	12

Q&A With Devon Haynie

Devon Haynie was the 2008 Flora Lewis awardee and a recent graduate of the master's program at the Columbia University School of Journalism. She had an internship this past summer in the Associated Press bureau in Johannesburg. Pictured right, Haynie in Soweto.

— Aimee Rinehart

OPC: What did winning the OPC scholarship do for you in terms of your career?

HAYNIE: I've always dreamt of being a foreign correspondent, and winning the OPC scholarship gave me a chance to have that experience. It also improved my confidence. I was placed with the Associated Press, so I was required to write quickly, accurately and on deadline. Working for a wire service used to intimidate me, but now I know I can do the work and enjoy it.

The OPC scholarship changed my career goals. I had such a positive experience with the AP in South Africa that I'd really like to find work for the organization in the future. If you'd like to be a foreign correspondent, the wire services are the places to be. They are continuing to staff their international bureaus at a time when newspapers are cutting back.

OPC: How did you become interested in international reporting?

HAYNIE: I did a lot of traveling as an undergraduate and afterward, and I think seeing the world and talking to people about their lives, politics, etc. sparks an interest in global affairs. The more you learn about other countries, the more inter-

esting international news becomes; you begin to connect the dots and understand why the news matters. I also took quite a few courses in college that focused on international relations and ethnic conflict. I've always been interested in other cultures and why conflicts happen.

OPC: Why report in South Africa?

HAYNIE: I spent half of my junior year in college at the University of Cape Town, where I took courses on South African politics and history. South Africa is a particularly fascinating country for journalists. There are so many competing histories, and people are eager to share their stories.

OPC: How did you get work at the AP and what is the South Africa bureau like?

HAYNIE: The AP selected me for an internship, and thought I'd be a good fit in its Johannesburg bureau. I love the country, so I didn't protest.

The Johannesburg bureau is one of the AP's largest bureaus in Africa. Working with stringers, the bureau puts out stories from all of Southern Africa. It's a great group of people, and I was surprised to see that the print side was female dominated.



The four reporters I worked with, including the bureau chief, were all women.

I got my feet wet pretty quickly. Only two weeks after I arrived, a wave of xenophobic attacks broke out in Johannesburg's townships. I was interviewing men and women who'd just had their homes burned and their possessions stolen. I spoke with a few people who had been beaten with hammers and sticks. It was a pretty intense experience, but I'm thankful I had the opportunity to cover the events. I also did a fair amount of desk reporting on the Zimbabwe crisis. Aside from that, I was pretty much a general assignment reporter and reported on whatever the bureau chief sent me out to cover.

The Overseas Press Club Foundation 2009 Scholarship Luncheon takes place on **Friday, February 13** at the Yale Club in New York City; reception, 11:30 a.m. and luncheon, noon to 2 p.m. Patron tables are \$5,000, Friend tables are \$2,000. Seats are \$75 for OPC Members and \$100 for non-members. Contact Jane Reilly at foundation@opcofamerica.org or telephone at 201-493-9087.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA • BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PRESIDENT

Allan Dodds Frank
Correspondent
Bloomberg News

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Arlene Getz
Senior Editor
Newsweek
World Wide Special Editions

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Marcus Mabry
International Business
Editor
The New York Times

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Serrill
Senior Editor
Bloomberg Markets

TREASURER

Jacqueline Albert-Simon
U.S. Bureau Chief
Politique Internationale

SECRETARY

Jane Ciabattari
Author/Journalist

ACTIVE BOARD

Ron Allen
Correspondent
NBC News

David A. Andelman
Editor
World Policy Journal

Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews
Foreign Editor
CBS News

Roger Cohen
International Writer at Large
The New York Times

George de Lama
Freelance Editor

Christia Freeland
U.S. Managing Editor
Financial Times

Klara Glowczewska
Editor in Chief
Condé Nast Traveler

Frederick Kempe
President & CEO
The Atlantic Council

Jim Laurie
Director, Broadcast
Journalism
University of Hong Kong

Kevin McDermott
Managing Partner
Collective Intelligence

Cait Murphy
Writer/Editor

Maggie Murphy
Assistant Managing Editor
People

Calvin Sims
Program Officer,
News Media
The Ford Foundation

ACTIVE ALTERNATES
Chuck Lustig
Director of Foreign News
ABC News

Nikhil Deogun
International Editor
The Wall Street Journal

Tim Ferguson
Editor
Forbes Asia

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Collins
Director, Public &
Business Affairs
Ford Motor Company

Kathleen Hunt
United Nations
Representative
Care International

Minky Worden
Media Director
Human Rights Watch

ASSOCIATE ALTERNATE
David Fondiller
Director of Media Relations
The Boston Consulting
Group

PAST PRESIDENTS EX-OFFICIO

John Corporon
Alexis Gelber
William J. Holstein
Marshall Loeb
Larry Martz
Barrett McGurn
Roy Rowan
Leonard Saffir
Larry Smith
Richard B. Stolley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sonya K. Fry

EDITOR
Aimee Rinehart

OPC Bulletin
ISSN-0738-7202 Copyright
© 2002
Overseas Press Club
of America

40 West 45 Street, New York, NY 10036 USA • Phone: (212) 626-9220 • Fax: (212) 626-9210 • Website: opcofamerica.org

Post-Elections, Panel Poses Scenarios for U.S.-China Relations

EVENT RECAP: NOVEMBER 21

by Aimee Rinehart

The relationship between the United States, China and Taiwan is one of the world's most complicated military, economic and diplomatic triangles. Nearly 30 years after President Jimmy Carter recognized Communist China, these relationships are undergoing economic strains and changing leaderships, both in the U.S. and Taiwan. A panel of three experts argued that the status quo can be maintained for years to come, but there will critical challenges, including coping with the shock waves of the economic crisis.

The panel took place on Friday morning, November 21 at Club Quarters in Manhattan. About 50 people gathered for breakfast – bagels, salmon and flowing urns of coffee – to learn what the impact of an Obama presidency might have on U.S. relations with China and Taiwan.

The panel was comprised of Chong-Pin Lin, professor at the Graduate Institute of International Affairs and Strategic Studies at Tamkang University in Taipei; Andrew Nathan, Professor of Political Science at Columbia University who has written extensively on China and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations; and Jerome A. Cohen, Co-Director of the U.S.-Asia Law Institute at NYU School of Law and Adjunct Senior Fellow for Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations. The moderator was OPC Foundation President William J. Holstein who first reported from China 30 years ago and recently returned from trips to Taiwan and China.

The issue of China did not come up in the U.S. Presidential campaigns, and Nathan said Barack Obama's advisors to China are "mainstream U.S. policy types."

"Our long-term strategy is one of cooperation with China in the stability of Asia. I don't see any change coming out of the U.S. side," Nathan said. "Republicans and Democrats were relieved when [President of Taiwan] Ma Ying-jeou was elected, and approve of the measures that he's taking to thaw relations across the straights."

Lin said Beijing was quiet on the U.S. presidential race before the election, however, within one week after Obama's election Beijing gave Obama "a huge gift."

"Obama's people have been calling

for China to expand its internal market," Lin said. "Then within a week, China announced a \$586 billion package to be spent in two years for internal markets; that means buying American goods. Beijing is well-prepared to engage with Obama."

Cohen agreed with Nathan and said there won't be much change between U.S. and China relations, but rather, "continuity."

"We'll have a steady policy of supporting Ma Ying-jeou's effort for reproachment with the mainland," Cohen said. "But we have to be careful to not be too pushy on this. In many ways the matter is out of our hands. We can decide whether to continue to supplying arms to Taiwan...we can decide whether to put pressure on the mainland to show more effort because I think these measures have taken place and are undoubtedly welcomed, but they're not very visible. These are quiet measures. The most visible thing the mainland can do is to start drawing down the number of missiles that are down the strait. That would be a real symbol of progress."

Cohen said the mainland has to realize that Ma's new policy cannot go far unless he can draw the center of Taiwan's population with them, and that the U.S. can encourage Beijing to show more dramatic policy responses.

"The reality is, we are intertwined with China. The president can emphasize domestic economics or foreign policy; it's all one now," Cohen said. "We're in bed with the Chinese and they're in bed with us...China policy is being made by events and the big event now is the economy and the related problems of food, health, environment and, I hope, human rights in the sense of political and civil rights will come along. We can't neglect that as a part of U.S. policy."

Lin agreed with Cohen on the Chinese-U.S. growing economic dependence. "However, there's a difference," Lin said. "China has a grand strategy and I don't think the U.S. has one."



Panelists from left, Andrew Nathan, Chong-Pin Lin, moderator Bill Holstein and Jerome Cohen.

Sonya K. Fry

Lin said Beijing is facing a dilemma: maintain its political power while at the same time contend with public discontent over issues like tainted milk that sickened more than 1,200 people.

"They were not reported in a timely manner," Lin said of the numerous tainted food issues. "The question is on more freedom of press, and that goes against the assumption. In order for the party in Beijing to survive, the party must allow more freedom of press and I think the party leaders are thinking about this now."

Holstein questioned whether there has been a shift in the balance of power between Washington and Beijing from the U.S. economic crisis, which appears to be more severe than what China's expanding economy is experiencing. Washington once thought of itself as the "Big Brother" to a smaller, emerging power.

Cohen said these are natural developments that the countries must deal with. "I am not at all worried about an alteration of the relationship from one of big brother to little brother to one of relative partnership and equality," Cohen said. "The U.S. will have a better policy if we're more seen as an important member of a community that we don't dominate but accommodate. I think it's good for us, for our character, our policy and international relations."

Cohen said he hopes that the U.S. would agree to have an in-person dialogue with Taiwan's leaders.

"We can use technology with video conferences," Cohen said. "But it would be much better if we could have face-to-face contact. That would be another symbol of Beijing's new appreciation of the current situation."

The entire discussion is available for download at www.opcofamerica.org.

Journalist Steve Fainaru Relays the Hidden Costs of War

(Continued From Page 1)

said. "You'd see these people at chow halls, dressed as civilians and heavily tattooed. They looked like they stepped out of a Max Mad movie. I wanted to know who they were and what they did."

Fainaru made contact with the Crescent Security Group based in Kuwait City. He described Crescent's headquarters as a house that looked like a "paramilitary group found in the San Fernando Valley," but inside found it to be a well fortified mission control. Within eight hours of his arrival, they went to Iraq in regular pick-up trucks.

"They literally commute to the war," Fainaru said. "This was at the height of the insurgency."

He saw no guns on the people in the truck and asked someone where weapons were kept. He was told that they were kept in a "container on the other side."

"Is that safe?" Fainaru asked.

The person replied, "Funny you should mention that..." Fainaru explained that the week before all the weapons were missing from the container. The owner of Crescent sent an Iraqi employee into Iraq with \$50,000 to buy weapons on the black market. After looking at the serial numbers, they realized they had bought back their own stolen weapons.

This was just one of many stories Fainaru related at the OPC Book Night that underscores the lawlessness in Iraq when it comes to private security firms. *Big Boy Rules* [Da Capo Press, 2008] follows closely who the mercenaries are, with particular attention to former 82nd Airborne Jon Coté who worked for \$7,000 a month for Crescent.

"He was looking for a feeling he didn't have," Fainaru said. "That's one of the most perverse things about the war."

Fainaru spent a week with Coté and returned to write a story. Before striking the first key, he received a call that Coté and three colleagues had been kidnapped. They went missing for fourteen months until an informant came forward delivering their severed fingers in a bag. The bodies began to appear soon after.

Fainaru said he wanted to look into

why people like Coté take these dangerous jobs and what happened to them. The second half of *Big Boy Rules* looks at the corporate world of private security firms.

"Because there was never going to be a draft and they wouldn't put more troops on the ground, the government outsourced the war," Fainaru said. "There were tens of thousands of hired guns called the 'Iraq Bubble.' Everyone involved in these firms operated with impunity."

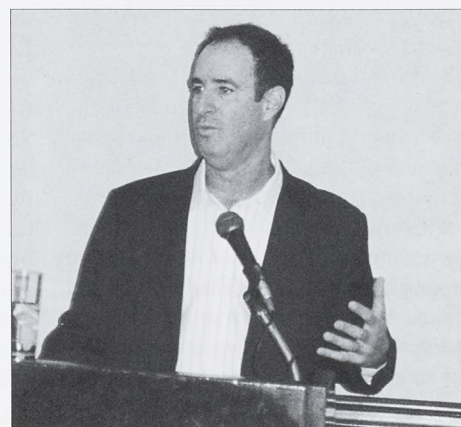
Fainaru told the story of a former marine – who was paid \$18,000 a month – who woke up one day and said he wanted to kill someone. Later that day he kicked open the truck door and fired several rounds into a taxi and drove off. One of the members in his group of four, a Fijian paid \$600 a month, came forward and was told by his Fijian supervisor to remain silent on the matter. Eventually the two other former military members came forward. The company's response was to fire the two informants and the perpetrator of the shooting who now resides in Oklahoma. There are no rules or jurisdictions in Iraq, hence the name of the book, *Big Boy Rules*, an expression used by employees of the security agencies.

"What struck me about this was the total absence of law," Fainaru said. "No contractor has been charged with a crime. The company I heard the most about was Blackwater; they more than any company operated with impunity. The U.S. paid \$1.2 billion a year to protect diplomats in Iraq. Blackwater has been so pernicious because it's operating under a state department contract. No State Department personnel has so far been killed."

Fainaru said the government claimed they wouldn't renew contracts if there were reported missteps, but so far all contracts have been renewed.

"There are layers and layers of contracts, some for \$35,000 that last for only a day sealed by no more than a handshake," Fainaru said. "It's labyrinthian in nature."

The upcoming Obama administration is in a tough spot, Fainaru said. "As



Steve Fainaru during the talk.

Sonya K. Fry



Book buyers before the event.

Aimee Rinehart

a senator he worked to make laws for the contractors, but now he's faced with a parallel track. As the U.S. withdraws, there'll be a need for more private security firms. As the oil services industry begins again, they'll need security."

One of the biggest issues with the private security firms Fainaru said, is that they are not counted in figures of troops killed or missing.

"This is the hidden costs of war," Fainaru said. "It's amazing how many people are willing to do this work. The people doing it say it's exciting, the money is good. It's all the great stuff about the military without the B.S. The majority are professional and do important work. The question is, should they be doing that work?"

Fainaru blogs on this continuing story – most recently about a candlelight vigil he attended in Buffalo for Jon Coté – at www.bigboyrules.com.



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

GLOBAL: *The New York Times* has moved several of its foreign correspondents. **Jim Yardley**, Beijing bureau chief for the past five years, transferred to bureau chief in New Delhi, where he was joined by **Lydia Polgreen**, who had been reporting from West Africa. Yardley succeeded **Somini Sengupta**, who is taking sabbatical in the Netherlands before getting a new assignment. **Nori Onishi** moved to Indonesia from Tokyo. He was replaced in Tokyo by **Martin Fackler**, a business writer in New York. **Jeffrey Gettleman**, who was assigned twice to Iraq, transferred from the New York Metro desk to East Africa as bureau chief.



Lydia Polgreen

BEIJING: The reception in China to OPC member **Rebecca Fannin's** book could not have been more mixed. The government banned the sale in Beijing of her *Silicon Dragon: How China Is Winning the Tech Race*, yet she was interviewed in Beijing on a government-operated TV channel and her book was sold in Shanghai stores. **Leah Spiro**, Fannin's editor at McGraw Hill, commented, "That's historic!" Fannin reported, "The book refers to Tiananmen Square a few times, so that's why it is not being sold in Beijing." She was interviewed on China's international TV channel, CCTV-9, on the book that reports how China is moving from low-cost manufacturing to high-tech industries.

From Beijing, Fannin went to Taipei in November to launch the Chinese edition of *Silicon Dragon*. In an e-mail to



Rebecca Fannin

OPC Executive Director **Sonya K. Fry**, Fannin wrote that she was in Taipei at the Grand Formosa Regent Hotel during the week when Chen Yunlin, Beijing's top negotiator, was negotiating economic and transportation issues with Taiwan. "Very angry protesters are here too and so are hundreds of police," she wrote on November 6. "Last night I was awakened by a grenade going off outside the hotel.

The Chinese official was here for a dinner when the grenade exploded. Fortunately, no one was hurt."



Writer and cyber-dissident **Liu Xianbin** was released from prison this autumn after serving nine years of a 13-

(Continued on Page 6)

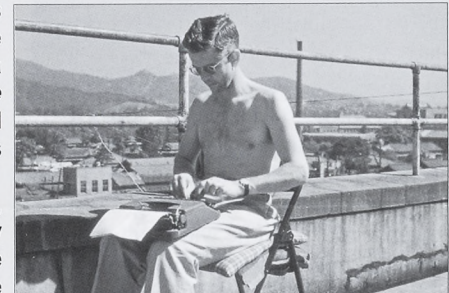
CAPE ELIZABETH, Maine: On the June morning in 1950, when North Korean forces charged across the 38th parallel and attacked South Korea, **John Rich** was in a coastal villa in Japan anticipating a long soak in a wooden tub, its water heated by a fire underneath. But his editor at International News Service shouted on the phone, "Get your fanny back to Tokyo." Days later, Rich was on a landing ship bound for Pusan, Korea. Along with his notebooks, he carried some Kodachrome film and a new camera, a keepsake from a field trip led by *Life* magazine photographer **David Douglas Duncan** to an upstart lens factory, Nikon.

During the next three years, Rich, one of the few and perhaps the only American correspondent to cover the war from start to finish, snapped close to 1,000 color photographs of wartime Korea while reporting for INS and later NBC News. He meant the photos to be no more than souvenirs. "I'd walk around and bang, bang, bang," Rich told the *Smithsonian* magazine in an article in its November issue about his photos. "If something looked good, I would shoot away."

His snapshots included POWs, British gunners, Korean children at play, women pounding laundry in a river, Betty Hutton's pumps as she danced for the troops, the argyle socks of the Scottish regiment marching and the camouflaged house of North Korean leader Kim Il Sung. "He [Rich] had no idea that the pictures would constitute perhaps the most extensive collection of color photos of the Korean War," *Smithsonian* staff writer **Abigail Tucker** wrote in the article that was illustrated with John's color shots.

About a decade ago, Rich, now 91 and an OPC member, started reviewing the photos that he had stored in a Japanese tea chest. Several of the photos were published in John's local paper, the *Portland Press Herald* and in a South Korean newspaper. Forty of his photos were featured this summer in an exhibition at the South Korean embassy in Washington titled, "The Korean War in Living Color: Photographs and Recollections of a Reporter." Rich spoke at the exhibit, and he told his personal story on NBC Nightly News with **Brian Williams** on July 25.

His eyesight failing from glaucoma, John hopes to publish a book of his photos and then donate them to a museum. John and his wife **Doris Lee**, whom he met in Korea and calls his "Seoul Mate," live in a seaside cottage on the Maine coast.



Korean War correspondent John Rich



Korean boy near the front.

(Continued From Page 5)

year sentence for posting articles online criticizing the government and Communist Party policies. He was sentenced by a people's court in Sichuan Province in August 1999. From New York, Reporters Without Borders wrote in a statement, "A total of 49 cyber-dissidents are currently detained in China, making it the world's biggest prison for Internet users."

BOSTON: *The Christian Science Monitor*, 100 years old on November 25, will cease daily publication in April and shift to online publication updated continuously each day. It will print one edition a week. This strategy will "secure and enlarge the *Monitor's* role in its second century," said **Mary Trammell**, editor-in-chief of the Christian Science Publishing Company. Largely distributed by mail to subscribers, the *Monitor* said in an article that its circulation "has trended downwards for nearly 40 years."

CIUDAD JUÁREZ, Mexico: **Armanada Rodriguez**, crime reporter for the newspaper *El Diario*, was driving from his home with his young daughter November 13 when he was fatally shot at least eight times by a gunman who fled. Rodriguez, 40, had written articles on violence associated with narcotics trafficking.

DAKAR, Senegal: **El Malick Seck**, editor of the daily *24 Heures Chrono*, was sentenced to three years in prison September 12 for publishing an article that claimed Abdoulaye Wade, president of Senegal, and his son were guilty of money laundering. On August 28, 24 hours after the article was published, the newspaper's office was attacked by men in a government car who smashed computers and sprayed tear gas on employees. In a letter to President Wade, **George Bookman** and **Norman A. Schorr** of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee condemned the government for the arrest and wrote, "Your country's laws on press freedom badly need to be overhauled to meet current world-wide press standards."

DALLAS: **Ted** and **Femmy Stannard** traveled across the country and back to meet along the way with old UPI colleagues from their days in Asia. Driving a Canadian-build Roadtrek 190

motor home, they met with **John Hlavecek** in Omaha; in Connecticut with **Agnes Brackman**, widow of **Arnold Brackman**, who died in 1983, **Don** and **Maureen Becker**, and **Al** and **Diana Kaff**; in Washington, D.C. with **John** and **Anne Barton**; **Joe Chapman** on the East Coast; and **Pat** and **Miyoko Killen** in Dallas. The Stannards also attended a reunion of the Shanghai American School, which Ted attended from 1944 to 1948. The Stannards started their 15,000-mile trip from their home in Bellingham, Washington, on August 17, and they expect to be back home in December.

Stannard replaced Killen in Karachi 49 years ago and then reported from Jakarta, Tokyo, Manila and the UN. He helped found a journalism program at Western Washington University and was a visiting scholar in Indonesia, Egypt and Cambodia before retiring. Ted met Femmy when she was secretary to the press officer at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta. He was twice expelled from Indonesia.

GUANGZHOU, China: Despite hints of intimidation from Chinese authorities, about 1,000 Chinese jammed the ballroom of the Marriott China Hotel in Guangzhou for the U.S. election watch party organized by the U.S. Consulate and the American Chamber of Commerce on November 5 (Guangzhou is 13 hours ahead of U.S. Eastern time). **Arnold Zeitlin**, a visiting journalism professor at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and a former AP and later UPI executive in Asia, reported, "Ten years ago such a gathering might have been unthinkable in high-anxiety China. Life-size cardboard photos of Obama and McCain were on the stage. Chinese kids were lining up to take photos with their cardboard cutouts. By the end of the morning, McCain was left alone while the kids lined up to pose with Obama." One reporter told Zeitlin she would not be surprised if Chinese elected their president in her lifetime, but she never expects to see Chinese leaders debating their policies on TV.

GORI, Georgia: A Russian cluster bomb killed three journalists in Georgia in August, the Dutch foreign minister said after a Dutch investigation. But Russia denied using cluster bombs during the war with Georgia. Killed were Dutch cameraman **Stans Storimans**; **Alexander**

Klimchuk, owner of a Georgian photo agency; and **Grigol Chikhladze**, *Newsweek Russia*.

HANOVER, New Hampshire: OPC member **Peter J. Gardner** is the son of the late **Ralph Gardner**, who decades ago started writing a column in the *Bulletin* about what Club members and foreign correspondents are doing, a column now titled "People" (October *Bulletin*). In a November letter to the current "People" columnist, Peter wrote: "It brings me much happiness to know that a creative contribution my father made to an organization that was so dear to him should continue and flourish as you have allowed and enabled it to for two decades."

KABUL: Afghan journalist **Sayed Parwiz Kambakhsh**, 23, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for blasphemy by an appeals court October 20, overturning a death sentence ordered by a provincial court in October last year. A journalism student and reporter for the newspaper *Jahan-e-Naw* (*New World*), Kambakhsh was arrested last year after he printed and distributed an article from the Internet about Islam and women's rights including comments on the failure of Prophet Muhammad on that issue. Kambakhsh was charged with "blasphemy and distribution of texts defamatory of Islam." He said he was tortured into making a confession and was not given a defense attorney in his original trial.

LAGOS, Nigeria: **Paul Abayomi Ogundeji**, a reporter for the privately-owned daily *Thisday*, was returning home by car around 11 p.m. on August 17 when gunmen blocked his way, told him to open his car door and fatally shot him when he refused. The chairman of *Thisday's* editorial board, **Godwin Agbroko**, was killed less than two years ago in similar circumstances.

LEESBURG, Virginia: *Military History* magazine asked 50 military historians to list what they considered to be the 10 best books ever written about war. Their selection included *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young* by veteran foreign correspondent **Joe Galloway** and retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General **Harold G. Moore**. Published in 1992 and still in print, *We Were Soldiers* was on *The New*

Toll on Journalists and Journalism in 2008

This issue of the *Bulletin* reports journalists around the world who were kidnapped, arrested or survived physical attacks.

While leaving his son's school in Addis Ababa after a parent-teacher meeting October 31, **Amare Aregawi**, editor-in-chief of the Ethiopian bi-weekly *Reporter* was shot and beaten on the head and left bleeding and unconscious on the ground by two assailants who were apprehended shortly afterwards. Aregawi had published editorials criticizing local businessmen and a government office, and he was detained for five days in October.

Makis Nodaros, a reporter for several Greek newspapers and broadcasters, was beaten on the head, arms and legs by two unidentified men October 23 in his home town of Lechaina, Greece. Nodaros had published articles about corruption among local authorities, mismanagement of relief efforts for victims of Greek forest fires in 2007 and sexual exploitation of a minor.

Melissa Fung, a reporter for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, was freed November 8 after she was kidnapped October 12 after reporting in a Kabul refugee camp. She was freed following negotiations between tribal leaders and Wardak provincial council members. No ransom was involved, Afghan and Canadian officials said.

Thomas Scheen, a correspondent for the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeinen Zeitung*, was kidnapped in the Congo village of Mabenga November 4 while covering the conflict between rebels and pro-government forces. Along with his assistant and three rebel fighters, he was abducted by Mai Mai militia.

Emmanuel Emeka Asiwe, editor of the on-line publication *HuhuOnline*, was arrested at Nigeria's Muritala Muhammed International Airport October 28 when he arrived from the United States to visit his sick mother. An American citizen, he was still being detained in November at headquarters of the Internal Intelligence Service of the State Security Service.

In Peshawar, Pakistan, **Modoki Yotsukura**, Islam bureau chief for the Japanese newspaper *Asahi Shimbun*, and **Sami Yousafzai**, a *Newsweek* correspondent, were wounded on November 14 in an attempted kidnapping. They were in a car returning from Khyber, a tribal area where Taliban militants are strong, when a gunman opened fire on them, wounding Yotsukura in his right leg and Yousafzai in the chest, hand and arm.

In Nepal, **Rammani Upadhyay**, editor of the newspaper *Basudha*, was seriously injured and hospitalized October 24 when he was attacked by unidentified assailants. **Shiva Devkota**, editor of the weekly *Nuwakot Jagaran*, was attacked and roughed up November 17 after speaking on behalf of the Nepal Press Union at a Congress Party meeting.

Hossein Derakhshan, a high-profile blogger, was arrested in November shortly after he moved back to Iran from Canada where he had lived since 2000. Accused of spying for Israel. Derakhshan, an Iranian-Canadian, traveled to Israel last year and wrote about it. A November 21 op-ed written by Israeli journalist **Abraham Rabinovich** in *The International Herald Tribune* described Derakhshan as an "Iranian patriot [who through his blog] offered the first views of ordinary life in Israel that Iranian had been able to see."



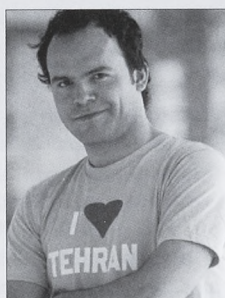
Amare Aregawi



Melissa Fung



Modoki Yotsukura in an ambulance.



Hossein Derakhshan

York Times best-seller list for 18 weeks and was made into a 2002 Hollywood movie. The book is an account of the 1965 Ia Drang Valley battle, the first major engagement between U.S. and North Vietnamese soldiers. Galloway covered the battle for UPI, and Moore was a battal-

ion commander in the battle.

The other books selected: *The Iliad* by Homer, 8th century BC; *History of the Peloponnesian War* by Thucydides, 423-411 BC; *On War* by Carl von Clausewitz, 1832; *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy, 1868; *The Red Badge of Courage* by

Stephen Crane, 1895; *The Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* by Ulysses S. Grant, 1895; *The Face of Battle* by John Keegan, 1976; *With the Old Breed* by E. B. Sledge, 1981; and *Battle Cry of Freedom* by James McPherson, 1988.

In November at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, Joe ended a cross-country tour of speeches and book signings for *We Are Soldiers Still*, Galloway and Moore's sequel to their best seller published this year (October *Bulletin*). "Book sales now well north of 20K and rising steadily," Joe wrote in an e-mail to this column.



Queen Sofia at a donkey sanctuary in Andalusia this fall.

MADRID: Spanish journalist **Pilar Urbano** interviewed Queen Sofia of Spain several times and then wrote *The Queen Up Close*, a book that provides a close look at her conservative views. "Her comments on homosexuality, same-sex marriage, euthanasia and religious education outraged liberal Spaniards and tarnished an image of discretion that she had carefully tended for decades," **Victoria Burnett** of *The New York Times* wrote in a dispatch from Madrid. "In the book's most notorious comment, the queen is quoted as saying she respects people's different sexual orientations but does not understand why 'they should feel proud to be gay.'" In a statement read to reporters, a palace spokesman said the queen "deeply regrets that the inaccuracy of the comments attributed to her may have caused discomfort or offense." The statement said the queen was quoted "inexactly." But the author said galleys of the book were reviewed by the queen's office, which approved them for publication.

MINGORA, Pakistan: Journalist **Qari Muhammad Shoaib** was shot dead by soldiers November 8 when he was at

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued From Page 7)

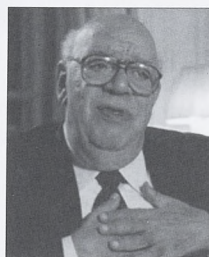
the wheel of his car while returning from a hospital with his daughter who had been ill. She was unhurt. A military statement said soldiers were patrolling the area where Shoaib was killed after receiving information of a threatened suicide attack. "Warning shots were fired but the vehicle did not stop and as a result the security forces opened fire." But in a letter to Pakistan President Asif Ali Zahari, **Larry Martz and Kevin McDermott**, co-chairmen of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, wrote that "journalists in Mingora told Reporters Without Borders that the shots had been fired deliberately and were aimed at the journalist. 'If they had wanted to stop the vehicle they could have shot out the tires,' one of them said." Shoaib, whose car displayed a press sticker, was the third journalist killed in the Swat Valley this year.

MOSCOW: The trial of three men charged with providing logistical support in the killing of journalist **Anna Politkovskaya** opened in a military court in November amid flip-flop rulings and reversals on who could attend and who could not. Reversing a decision made two days earlier, Judge Yevgeny Zubov ruled on November 19 that news reporters would be barred from the trial, and the trial would be held behind closed doors. The judge told the court that jurors refused to participate if reporters were allowed to attend. But one of the jurors told an independent radio station that the jury did not object to reporters covering the trial but had asked only for the removal of television crews and photographers to hide their identity from the public. Then on November 25, the military court reversed previous rulings and said the trial would be open to the press and the public. The prosecutors then requested a new judge, saying Judge Zubov had been accused of "violating procedural rules." But the Moscow District Military Court rejected the request, and a few journalists squeezed into the courtroom November 26.

Politkovskaya, who was gunned down as she entered her apartment building in October 2006, was an investigative reporter for the newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*. She covered the war in Chechnya and often criticized the Kremlin. Her actual assailant is still at large.

The men on trial are former police officer Sergey Khadzhikurbanov and Chechen brothers Dzhabrail and Ibragim Makhmudov.

NEW YORK: Egyptian author and playwright **Ali Salem** won the 2008 Civil Courage Award presented by the Train Foundation of New York. A regular contributor to newspapers, Salem is noted for advocating normalization of Arab-Israel relations and supporting democratic governments. His criticism of religious extremism has been condemned by his opponents in the Middle East and from Egyptian authorities who have called him "a threat to national security." Author of 25 plays and 15 books, he is known for his 1995 book *A Drive into Israel* that showed the author's open approach to a nation many of his countrymen regard as the enemy. The award was presented in November at the U.S. Embassy in London.



Ali Salem

The AP will trim 10 percent of its staff next year, more than 400 positions from a global staff of 4,100. In a November announcement, **Tom Curley**, AP's chief executive and an OPC member, said the staff reduction was required because fees paid by member newspapers will be cut next year and because of a declining economy. Curley said he hopes most of the staff reductions will be achieved through attrition, but he did not rule out layoffs.

Some top editors are on the move. **Craig Matters**, executive editor of *Fortune* magazine, moves to managing editor of *Money*, succeeding **Eric Schurenberg**, who left the magazine in November. Matters had been an assistant managing editor at *Money* and editor of CNNMoney.com.

Vivian Schiller, who heads *The New York Times* online operations, will leave the paper to become president and chief executive of National Public Radio January 5. She will succeed **Kevin Klose**,

president the past 10 years, and **Dennis L. Haarsanger**, interim chief executive. Klose recently became NPR's president emeritus and president of the NPR Foundation.

Cissy Baker, vice president of news operations for Tribune Broadcasting, has been appointed vice president of the Washington news bureau for the Tribune Company, owner of the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Los Angeles Times*, in November.

Old-time TV news people gathered at the Tavern on the Green in Central Park November 9 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of "Eyewitness News" on New York's WABC-TV Channel 7. **Al Primo** developed "Eyewitness News" at a Philadelphia station in 1965 as a new way of reporting and moved the technique to New York in 1968. "Before 'Eyewitness News,' viewers got their news from one anchor, invariably a man, sitting behind a desk," **Cara Buckley** wrote in *The New York Times*. But Primo "turned staid news reporting on its head. He put reporters on the air including women and minorities. He gave them beats, had them chat with one another in what became known as 'happy talk.'" **Bob Lape**, who was part of Primo's original Channel 7 news team, said Primo "took reporters in the field and let them tell it to the people." Now 70, Primo wrote about TV reporting in his book *Eyewitness Newsmen*.

RANGOON: A Myanmar judge sentenced blogger **Nay Phone Latt** to 20

years and six months in prison on charges of defaming the state and violating laws on video and electronics. In a joint statement, Reporters Without Borders and the

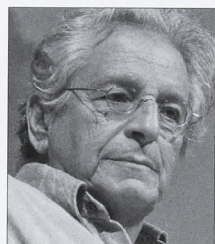


Nay Phone Latt

Burma Media Association wrote, "This shocking sentence is meant to terrify those who go online in an attempt to elude the dictatorship's ubiquitous control of news and information... There is an urgent need now for bloggers all over the world to demonstrate their solidarity with Nay Phone Latt by posting his photo on their

blogs and by writing to Burmese embassies worldwide to request his release."

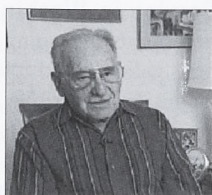
RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian Congressman **Fernando Gabeira**, a one-time foreign correspondent and student radical, lost his bid to become Rio de Janeiro's mayor in an October 26 run-off election. He was defeated by Congressman Eduardo Paes, 51 to 49 percent. In the early '90s, Gabeira was a news correspondent in Germany. Gabeira, now 67, was among four men who kidnapped U.S. Ambassador C. Burke Elbrick in 1969 to protest the military government's dictatorship. They held the ambassador for four days before letting him go in exchange for the release of 15 leftist political prisoners.



Fernando Gabeira

SCARSDALE, New York: Linda Goetz Holmes, an author and World War II historian, was honored October 25 when she received one of 12 Distinguished Alumni awards from her alma mater, Scarsdale High School. "I was more thrilled by this honor than being asked to deliver a paper at the National Security Agency, which until now I thought would be the pinnacle of my professional career," she wrote in an e-mail to "People." Author of *4000 Bowls of Rice* and *Unjust Enrichment*, OPC member Holmes has conducted research on Nazi and Japanese war crimes for the National Archives in Washington and other agencies. In what she called a trivial note, Linda wrote to this column, "I grew up directly across the street from where OPC past president **Marshall Loeb** lives in Scarsdale."

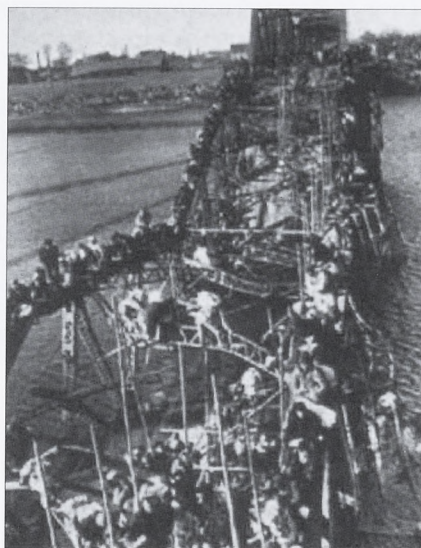
SILVER SPRING, Maryland: Veteran news photographer **Max Desfor** agreed that his 95th birthday on November 8 "was so great a day that I didn't get up until 10 a.m." His voice was as firm and his mind as alert as it was when this correspondent met him during the Korean



Max Desfor

War. "But I have a long list of doctors for Shirley and me," he said. During a long career with AP, Max photographed Japanese diplomats in Washington burning documents on their embassy grounds on December 7, 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor; Korean refugees fleeing across a bombed bridge on the Taedong River in December 1950 to escape advancing North Korean troops, a photo that won a Pulitzer Prize; the return of the B-29 bomber the Enola Gay to Saipan in 1945 after it dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima; Jawaharlal Nehru and Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi in 1946, a photo that was pictured on an Indian postage stamp; and many other historic events. A week after his 95th birthday, Max donated thousands of his prints and negatives, both color and black-and-white, to North Carolina State University, where they will be available to historians and writers.

Interviews with journalists on war are at www.newseum.org/warstories.



Desfor's Pulitzer Prize-winning photo "Flight of Refugees Across Wrecked Bridge in Korea"

TEHRAN: Ten Iranian journalists who were about to leave for the United States to cover the presidential election were detained at Tehran International Airport on October 25. Their passports were confiscated, and they were ordered to report to the Ministry of Intelligence.

In another development, journalist **Mohammad Sadegh Kabovand's** 11-year prison sentence was upheld by a Tehran appeals court in October. He was sentenced for organizing a human rights

group in Iran's Kurdish northwest and has been held in Teheran's Evin prison since July 2007.

WASHINGTON: Helen Thomas, senior White House correspondent and an OPC member, was back on the White House beat in November after hospitalization and recuperation for an illness that started in May. She "is ready to take on Barack Obama!" *Editor & Publisher* wrote in November. "She...is already complaining about him naming too many Clintonistas. She says she will not give Obama a honeymoon – oh, maybe one day. Thomas reveals that she did vote for Obama and never thought there would be a black president." *E&P* added, "She laments that newspapers are hurting."



After announcing in June that the weekly *U.S. News & World Report* would drop its frequency to every other week next year, its executives announced in November that the magazine will become a monthly in January. In a memo to the staff, editor **Brian Kelly** and president **Bill Holiber** said the magazine is accelerating its plans to focus on Internet publishing and a handful of topics: national and world news and opinion, health, money and business, education and rankings, and reviews. In the first half of this year, sales of *U.S. News* averaged 1.8 million an issue compared with *Time* 3.4 million, *Newsweek* 2.7 million, *The Economist* 750,000 and *The Week* 500,000.

WELLINGTON: Paul Prince, a reporter during the heyday of New Zealand's last two-newspaper cities, Wanganui and Wellington, was made a life member of the National Press Club of New Zealand in November. **Peter Isaac**, Club president and an OPC member, spoke of "Prince's long-time mentoring role in instructing journalists in the ways and machinations of the mercantile sphere." Now retired, Prince worked for the *Wanganui Chronicle* in the era in which it competed with the *Wanganui Herald* and then in Wellington for the *Evening Post*, a competitor of *The Dominion*.

ZAGREB, Croatia: Two news executives were killed October 23 when a car

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued From Page 9)

bomb exploded in front of the offices of the NCL Media Group in central Zagreb. Killed were **Ivo Pukanic**, owner and editorial director of NCL Media Group, and **Niko Franjic**, marketing director of the political weekly *Nacional*, which is published by NCL. Two other *Nacional* employees were injured. The bomb exploded under Pukanic's car. Prime Minister Ivo Sanader called the killings an "assassination." In April, an unidentified man carrying a gun with a silencer approached Pukanic on a street in front of his apartment, threatened to kill him and shot at him from a distance of several meters but missed.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Edward Sheehan, 78, who reported from the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Central America, died in Boston November 3 of allergic reaction to medication. After graduating from Boston college in 1952 and two years in the U.S. Navy, he joined *The Boston Globe*, roaming through Europe, the Middle East and Africa. In 1957, he joined the U.S. foreign service and worked as a press officer in U.S. embassies in Cairo and Beirut before becoming a freelance journalist writing for *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Harper's* and other publications. In an obituary, *The Times* wrote that Sheehan "explored the political machinations of the powerful and the misery of the powerless... he investigated the tensions between tradition and sudden oil wealth in the Middle East, the impulsive rule of the young Muammar el-Qaddafi in Libya, the civil war in Jordan and political turmoil in Uganda [and] the simmering social tensions in France caused by immigration." In his off hours, Sheehan wrote several novels and plays.



◆
Henry Loomis, 89, who defended the independence of the Voice of America when he was its director, died November 2 of complications from Alzheimer disease in Jacksonville, Florida, where he lived. A physicist by training, he became

People Remembered: AP Reporter Hugh Mulligan

by Al Kaff

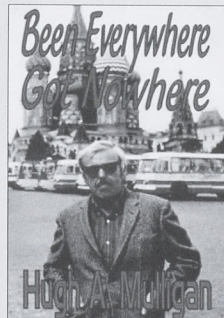
Hugh A. Mulligan, 83, who covered presidents, popes, astronauts and combat soldiers during a half century with AP, died November 26 in Connecticut's Danbury Hospital. He was found in a comatose state at 5 a.m. on November 13 by his wife **Brigid** in their Ridgefield, Connecticut home, and he never appeared to have awakened. A few days before he was hospitalized, Hugh, an OPC member, was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer.

Mulligan traveled on assignments to 146 countries. He covered almost every big event in the last half of the 20th century: wars in Southeast Asia, Middle East, Ireland, Cyprus, Angola and Biafra; President Kennedy's 1963 visit to the Berlin Wall, Kennedy and Reagan's visits to Ireland, and President Nixon's visits to China and Russia; touring with jazz great Louis Armstrong and comedian Bob Hope; flying over the North Pole in a blimp; and the wedding of Prince Charles and Diana and, by invitation, to Diana's funeral.

During World War II, Mulligan was a rifleman in the U.S. Army infantry in Germany after the 1944 Battle of the Bulge. Early in life, he studied for the priesthood, and his favorite assignments were traveling with Pope John Paul II on 28 trips abroad. When Mulligan visited the Biblical city of Sodom, he found the modern-day city "without sin" although "one might see a Bedouin three sheets to the wind" in a sandstorm. Hugh carried a spear in a Metropolitan Opera production of "Othello," rode a camel caravan in Oman, covered a July 4 barbecue in a Pennsylvania nudist colony ("no place to hang your credentials" and the hostess was "barefoot all the way up to her harlequin sunglasses," he wrote) and reported from Antarctica. AP President **Tom Curley**, also an OPC member, called Mulligan "a legendary storyteller. His wit was as penetrating as his humor was revealing." Former AP President **Louis D. Boccardi** said Mulligan "had a love affair with the world... There won't be, there can't be, another Hugh Mulligan."

Hugh was admired even by his UPI competitors. **Al Webb** in England: "Hugh was one of the finest writers and certainly one of the most fun people I've ever had the pleasure of being around." **Mike Keats** in Australia: "Mulligan was one of the best special writers going. When Hugh was in London, AP used to put him up against our **Bob Musel** and, despite Musel's unique flair, I thought Mulligan came out on top a coupla times, especially on sports stories."

After graduating from Marlboro College in Vermont in 1948 and teaching Greek and Latin at Boston Latin Prep School, Hugh Aloysius Mulligan joined AP in December 1951 and retired in 2000. He wrote books on Vietnam, the racehorse Kelso, Sherlock Holmes and his 2005 memoir *Been Everywhere, Got Nowhere* (July/August 2005 *Bulletin*). Hugh's awards included a 1996 OPC Award for his reporting from the Vietnam War, and *Money* magazine listed him among the "All Time Greats" in journalism.



VOA director in 1958 under President Eisenhower. Loomis increased VOA's broadcasting power and set up transmitters in several previously unserved countries. For less fluent foreign listeners, he started broadcasts in Special English, a simplified language with a core vocabulary of 1,500 words. Loomis resigned in 1965 when VOA came under increasing pressure from President Johnson's administration not to report such controversial news as the growing U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia. In his farewell speech, Loomis said, "The Voice of America is not the voice of the administration."



One of **Karen Timmons'** early jobs was Okinawa correspondent for the daily English-language *Japan Times* of Tokyo. Back in the States, she was a reporter for a Virginia newspaper; started her own news service in Richmond, Virginia; and took editing jobs at UPI and the *Washington Times*. She joined Scripps Howard News Service in Washington in 1995, and became its managing editor in 2002, planning national and international news coverage. Timmons, 58, died of ovarian cancer October 17 in a Baltimore hospital. Twice divorced, she married William T. Clippner, her companion of 13 years, 10 months before her death.



(Continued on Page 11, column 3)

Filkins Book Night:

(Continued From Page 1)

could escape lest it attract sniper fire.

Despite the personal risk and commitment that reporters like Filkins and Wright have taken to bring the reality of war to Americans, both agree that Iraq remains a "pretty abstract place" for most people. Deteriorating conditions discouraged most news outlets to continue reporting the war, Filkins said. He saw the number of reporters attending major press conferences dwindle from around 2,000 in 2004 to perhaps a "dozen."

"It is not a place where you can feel on your finger tips or in your gut... because it is so dangerous," Filkins said.

The cost of insuring and protecting journalists is prohibitive to all but the best resourced media outlets. *The New York Times* Baghdad bureau in a "regular neighborhood" on the east bank of the Tigris River looks like a "medieval fortress" with machine guns on the roof, 45 armed guards, three armored cars and a blast wall, Filkins said. It costs \$3 million a year to operate. Life insurance for reporters alone costs nearly \$15,000 a month.

And the danger has forced the isolation of American diplomats and many journalists from day-to-day interaction with Iraqis, especially at the nadir of the violence in 2006.

Filkins was taken aback in January 2006 when the American hostage coordinator and former Navy Seal asked him to return to the scene where *Christian Science Monitor* correspondent Jill Carroll was kidnapped and her translator killed in Western Baghdad, to pick up an evidence bag containing her cell phone, hair samples and shell casings. The diplomat was less concerned about his own safety than the disruption that a heavily armed convoy he was required to take with him would cause as it rumbled through the volatile neighborhoods.

Since leaving Iraq in 2006, Filkins returned in August this year to find a "remarkably" safer Iraq. A park near *The New York Times* bureau, that had been off limits to civilians, with militia and Iraqi army checkpoints at either end, was now teeming with parents and children.

"It was just amazing. It was a wonderful thing to see. You could see the relief on people's faces." Filkins said "In late

2006 the country was dead. It was finished. There was no coming back from something as horrible as what was happening. It turns out it wasn't dead; people were just in hiding, and my God were they happy to come out."

He attributes the temporary and fragile security to both the surge of American troops, and the Sunni Awakening, where tribal leaders began cooperating with America against the common enemy of Al Qaeda.

In the Anbar Providence, once the cradle of Sunni insurgency, former insurgents, who had been intent on blowing up homes and killing Americans, are now on the payroll as police officers earning \$300 a month and helping to maintain a fragile peace. Violence plummeted in war-torn Ramadi for example, where soldiers can now be seen walking around without their guns.

"Is it temporary? Yes, of course. Is it fragile? Yes," Filkins said. "Is it being sustained by bagfuls of money? Yes, but it is a nice thing to see."

Despite staying away from weighing in on politics and policy matters in the book, Filkins believes President-elect Barack Obama will be strongly advised by generals that withdrawing troops from Iraq would collapse all progress toward a precarious peace.

"They are trying to make it permanent," Filkins said. "It depends on how much time we have."

But if security in Iraq has improved, Afghanistan is a different story. Filkins returned earlier this year to the region, where he had been reporting before the attacks on America in September 11, 2001. He went to the rugged tribal area at the Pakistan and Afghanistan border that is now controlled by the Taliban and where Osama Bin Laden is believed to be in hiding.

Uppermost on policy makers' minds is a fear that any military action by the United States area could destabilize the weak civilian government in Pakistan, giving an opening to the Taliban to control the nuclear power with a population of 173 million people.



Charles Hack

Dexter Filkins (right) and Lawrence Wright during the discussion.

CHALLENGE FUND

In a concession to the financial crisis and the changing economic fortunes of the media, the OPC has cancelled the annual Holiday Party in favor of members donating their treasure to our **Challenge Fund**.

As OPC member **Linda Goetz Holmes** succinctly put it in response to the President's letter: "OK, I get it, Allan – instead of spending big bucks on a lavish holiday party at an equally lavish location, please send big bucks to meet our challenge grant – smart move!"

(People Remembered: Continued From Page 10)

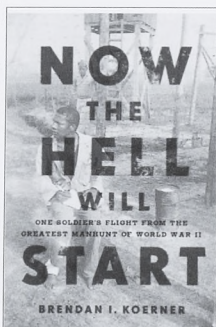
Melinda Camber Porter, 55, a foreign correspondent, author and artist, died of ovarian cancer October 9 at her home in Sag Harbor, Long Island. Born in London, she reported from Paris for eight years and then from New York as a cultural correspondent for *The Times* of London. Among the people she interviewed were Andre Malraux, Marguerite Duras, Françoise Sagan, Ingmar Bergman and John Huston. She wrote five novels including *Badlands*, a 1996 Book of the Month Club selection; eight screenplays; and thousands of poems in English and French. Although never trained formally as a painter, Porter created oils and watercolors that were exhibited in New York and added to her fame.



New Books

ASIA

WHEN A YOUNG LIEUTENANT approached black soldier Herman Perry in Burma during World War II, the soldier said, "Lieutenant, don't come up on me." Lieutenant Harold Cady was going to take Perry to the Ledo Stockade, an Army prison known for its brutality and where the soldier had served time before. As the lieutenant approached him, Perry fired his M-1 rifle, killing the lieutenant. Perry then managed to escape from Ledo Road Army camp into the Burmese jungle where he hid out with a tribe of tattooed headhunters, married the chieftain's 14-year-old daughter and became a hero to his newfound kin. This little known and astonishing event is told in *Now the Hell Will Start: One Soldier's Flight from the Greatest Manhunt of World War II* [New York: Penguin] by **Brendan I. Koerner**, a young journalist who has worked for *U.S. News & World Report*, *Wired*, *The*



New York Times and *Legal Affairs* magazine. The book covers many topics including segregated wartime life in Washington, how young women in head-hunting tribes in Burma select their mates, Chiang Kai-shek as a terrible general but a masterful schemer, dengue fever, the military justice system and a U.S. military system that kept its black members in a separate caste while fighting tyranny.

THE MIGRATION OF SOME

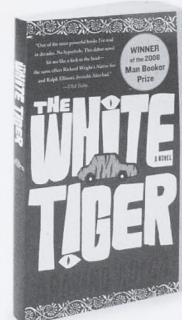
130 million Chinese from rural to urban areas is the largest in human history, three times the number of Europeans who migrated from Europe when the United States was industrialized. In *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China* [New York: Doubleday/Spiegel & Grau], **Leslie T. Chang**, a former *Wall Street Journal* correspondent in China, writes about the young women who left farms to find jobs in southern China's Pearl River Delta. Chang writes about Dongguan, a factory town whose population is estimated at 70 percent female. The women, some as young as 16, work 12-hour shifts for monthly wages around \$100, live in dormitories 12 to a room, are fined for talking on the job, allowed bathroom breaks only once in four hours, and are given minimal leave. The author quotes one of the women factory workers: "One



day I asked a friend, 'Why are we working so hard?' My friend could not answer."

A YOUNG INDIAN GETS A BREAK

when he is hired as a chauffeur by his village's wealthiest man and his son. After he sees corruption among the wealthy, Balram Halwai crushes the skull of his employer and steals a bag of money that he uses to start a taxi business in Bangalore. That's the plot of *The White Tiger* [New York: Free Press], a first novel by **Aravind Adiga**, 33, a former correspondent in India for *Time* magazine. Before the murder, Balram sees employers bribe government ministers for tax breaks, barter for girls and drink whiskey. He justifies the murder as an act of "social entrepreneur." Then in a series of letters to China's premier who is to visit India, Balram recounts his transformation from an honest, hardworking boy in a poor village to a determined killer and places the blame for his rage on the avarice of the Indian elite. The novel won this year's British Man Booker award, £50,000, about U.S.\$86,000 (November *Bulletin*). The *New Yorker* reported that "Balram's appealingly sardonic voice and acute observations of the social order are both winning and settling."



— by Al Kaff

Coming Up...

2009 Annual
OPC Foundation
Scholarship Luncheon

Friday, February 13
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at the Yale Club

RSVP to Jane Reilly:

foundation@opcofamerica.org
or 201-493-9087

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA